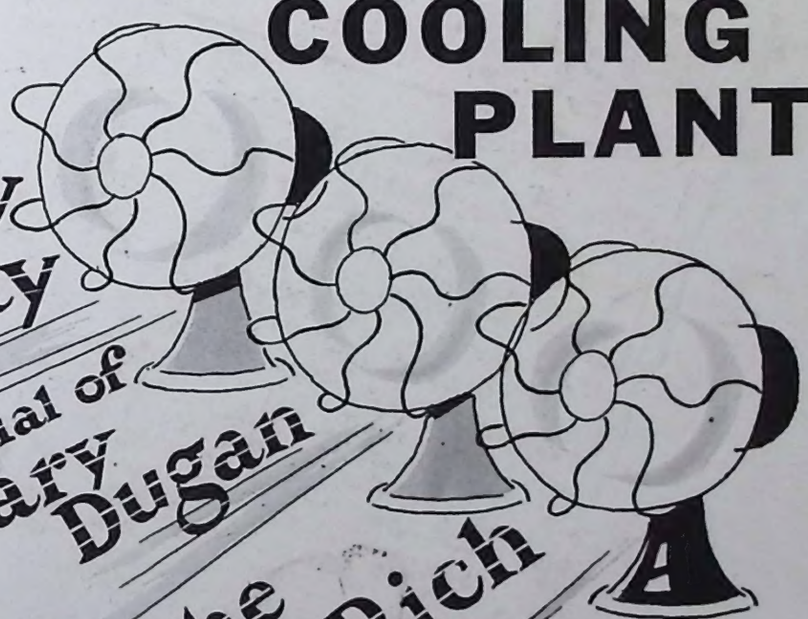
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

ol. 21, No. 6 TORONTO 2, CANADA June 8th, 1929

BETTER THAN A COOLING PLANT!



The Broadway Melody

The Trial of Mary Dugan

The Idle Rich

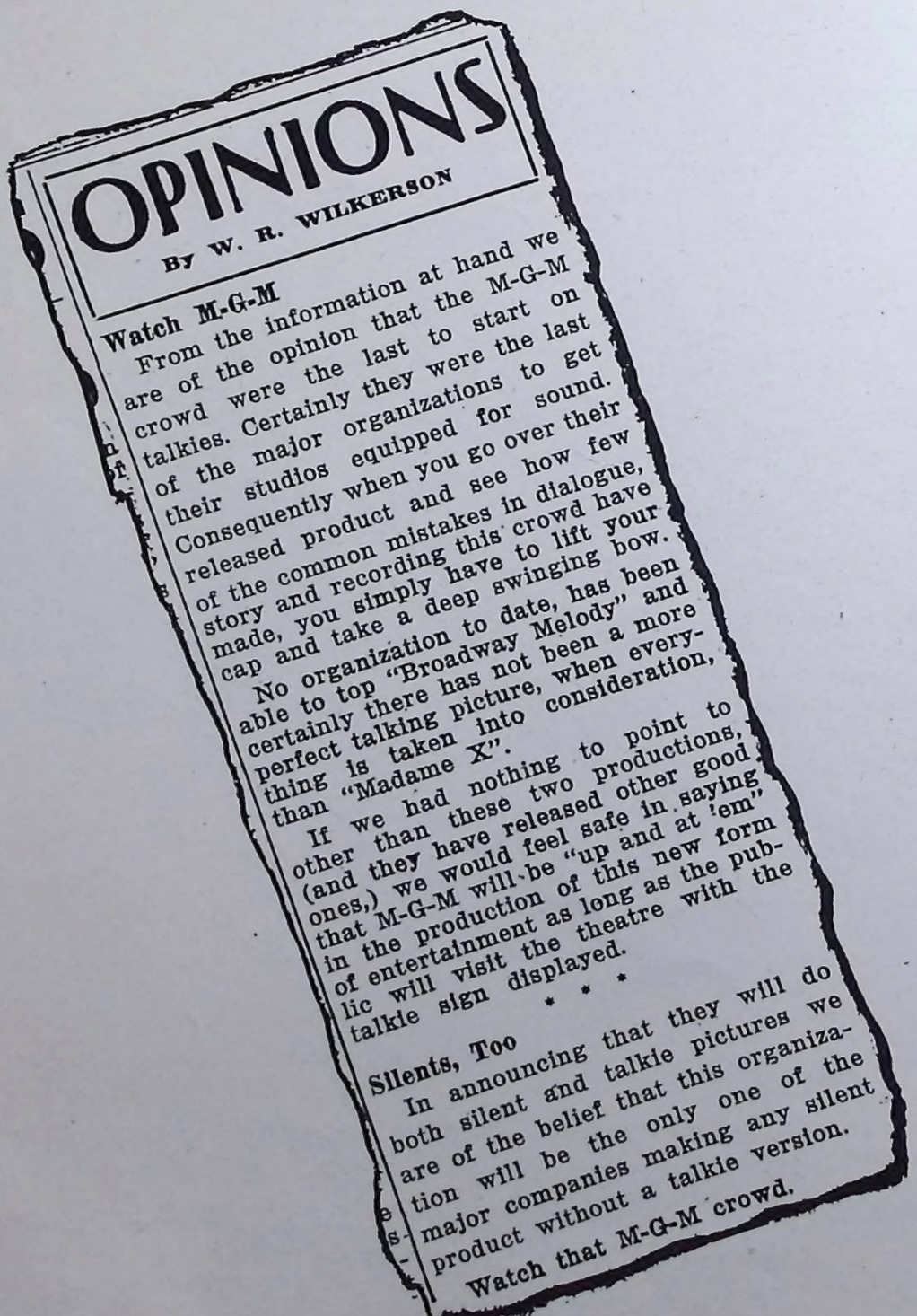
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S *All-Talking Hits!*

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

NOW YOU'RE TALKING!



OPINIONS

By W. R. WILKERSON

Watch M-G-M

From the information at hand we are of the opinion that the M-G-M crowd were the last to start on talkies. Certainly they were the last of the major organizations to get their studios equipped for sound. Consequently when you go over their released product and see how few of the common mistakes in dialogue, story and recording this crowd have made, you simply have to lift your cap and take a deep swinging bow.

No organization to date, has been able to top "Broadway Melody" and certainly there has not been a more perfect talking picture, when everything is taken into consideration, than "Madame X".

If we had nothing to point to other than these two productions, (and they have released other good ones,) we would feel safe in saying that M-G-M will be "up and at 'em" in the production of this new form of entertainment as long as the public will visit the theatre with the talkie sign displayed.

* * *

Silents, Too

In announcing that they will do both silent and talkie pictures we are of the belief that this organization will be the only one of the major companies making any silent product without a talkie version.

Watch that M-G-M crowd.

Editorial in Exhibitor's Daily Review, May 29, 1929.

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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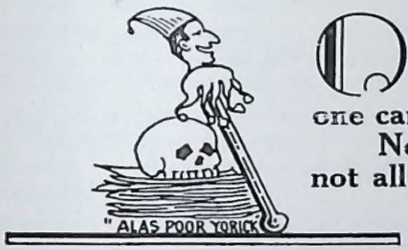
RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 21, No. 6. TORONTO 2, CANADA June 8th, 1929

Quebec Tolls the Knell



QUEBEC tolls the knell of Sunday shows. Now Montreal, that city which was acclaimed for its cosmopolitanism, joins Toronto; and the only place where one can go to on a Sunday is to Church.

Now Church is an excellent place to go to, although not all of the good people go to Church on Sunday, some good people stay at home; and some play golf.

Some people have learned the habit of only remembering God on Sundays and in Church. Others have got into the habit of Remembering God Every Day.

The Province of Quebec appears to be different in its make-up to the other Provinces of our Dominion.

The French-Canadian is a thrifty individual. He is a plodder and a worker. He believes in large families, and since his wife has long been sold on the idea, the children multiply.

It keeps the French daddy busy providing for his flock; and La Mere busy providing her share of service also. Therefore the only day which the French-Canadian considers as his day for rest and recreation is Sunday.

The French-Canadian goes to Church Sunday morning and to Moving Pictures Sunday afternoon, or evening.

The French-Canadian has had a reputation for being an ardent church-goer. A man of religious convictions and qualities. The fact that he has frequented Motion Pictures on Sunday does not appear to have diminished his church-going propensities, nor lessened his spiritual qualities.

The new ruling states that theatres must be closed on Sunday, so that now the citizens of the Province of Quebec will either have to go to church, or get their entertainment via Radio, or golf.

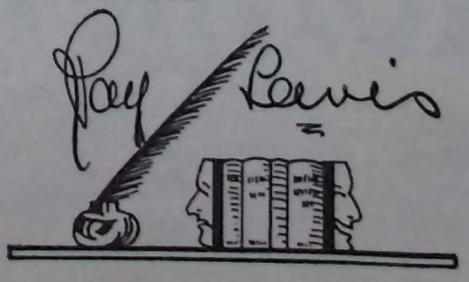
I do not know whether seeing a motion picture in a theatre and listening to an orchestra is more of an evil influence than seeing a motion picture via television, or listening to a musical program on your own Radio. But the "Powers which Rule" have said that theatres shall be closed on Sunday, and since the people elect the Powers to Power, it is for the people to register their protest if the Powers are exercising a power disagreeable to the people.

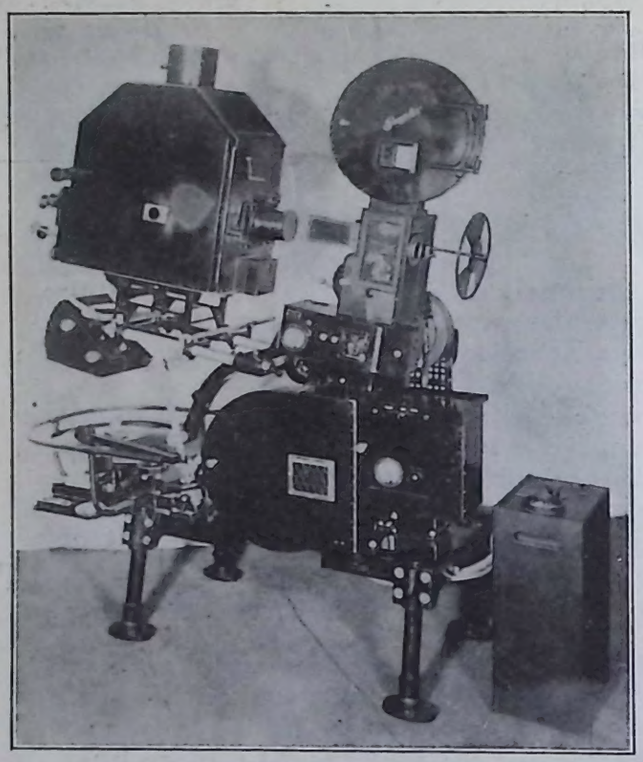
The ruling prohibiting children of sixteen and under from attending Motion Pictures, whether accompanied by an adult or not, is another ruling which has been fought against, but a decision making it final has been brought in.

It now rests with the parents to test the Power of the Ruling over Freedom of action as related to the home.

Children of fourteen are old enough to marry in Quebec; and to have children, but evidently they are too young to see Motion Pictures.

It is these paradoxes in life which give one a sense of humour; and which makes one realize that the world is still L'Infant Terrible; and that is why witches were burned, the Bible destroyed, why the inventor of the first steam engine had to hide to save his hide from the mob! However, there is still the Privy Council.





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RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

REPORTS herald that Otto H. Kahn of the banking house of Kahn, Loeb & Company, will announce the merger of Paramount Famous Lasky and the RCA Photophone, Inc., a subsidiary of the Radio Corporation of America.

It has long been rumoured that Adolph Zukor was the adopted "Daddy" of Warner Bros. But no confirmation of such an alliance has been forthcoming, rather many denials.

The merger as rumoured between Paramount Famous Lasky and the RCA Photophone Inc., is also being denied. But what does a denial, or two in our Industry of mergers matter?

Some time ago The Digest predicted that we should have "Radio Uber Alles," that is Radio, through its ramifications, would become the Paternal Parent of the Industry of Motion Pictures, plus amusement canned, wired, or delivered through the creative art of the artist; and we have not changed our opinion relative to this matter.

MR. M. H. AYLESWORTH, President of the National Broadcasting Company,is responsible for a most interesting and informative exposition on "Radio's Accomplishment" in the June Century number. He states, "If the future of radio is to be measured by its past, the next eight years are destined to give the world a series of fantastic events almost beyond the power of human vizualization."

Eight years ago the United States had one broadcasting station, KDKA in Pittsburgh, and in 1929, the number has increased 630 percent.

In 1921 there were no receiving sets, only the home-made crystals, states Mr. Aylesworth, and in eight years the Radio Industry has sold twelve million radios costing from five to more than one thousand dollars each.

In 1921 *there was no entertainment broadcasting, and states in the article, there was not a single radio artist in the U.S.*

In 1928 *the National Broadcasting Company paid five million dollars in salaries to radio entertainers, and in their own studios six thousand microphone appearances each month are made. It is also reported that one million microphone appearances are made each year in the* 630 *broadcasting stations.*

The "listeners in" are computed at between forty to fifty millions, or close to one-half of the population of the United States. Which means that any message delivered over Radio speaks to an audience of fifty million souls simultaneously.

IN THE United States there is approximately twenty thousand motion picture theatres, built during a quarter of a century, but in eight years Radio has covered one hundred thousand miles of leased wires which it uses every day to carry its programs across the United States.

During a period of eight years the National Broadcasting Company paid to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company two million dollars in wire charges for broadcasting.

In 1921 *not even one radio set had been manufactured for sale, but* 1928 *shows that the manufacturers in the Industry of Radio received seven hundred million dollars for their product.*

We called the Industry of Motion Pictures an Infant Industry for twenty-five years. It took that number of years to make the silent screen find its tongue, its voice, its feet, breaking forth in speech, in song and dance.

Can we call the Radio Industry The New Infant, or is this Infant already of such Gargantuan size that it might be more appropriately called "Jack, The Giant Killer?"

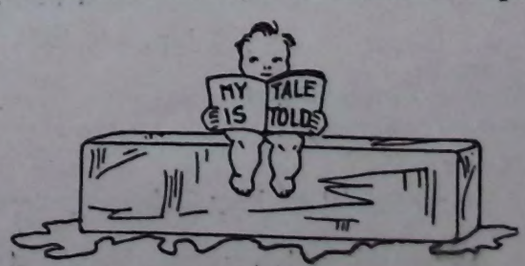
IT CERTAINLY is growing as if it had Elephantites, the healthy, normal kind, which has no growing pains, but exercises its size in "Growing Gains."

Some will question, does Radio pay for itself as it grows? We will tell you that Radio pays for itself; and pays more in profits than the Motion Picture Industry has any conception of. Watch our next issue for Does It Pay?

I HAD a visit with Messrs. L. A. Young and Grant L. Cook, officers of Tiffany Productions, at Detroit.

The affiliation with Gaumont British will give Tiffany a "wonderful break" in Great Britain, where the Gaumont British control about three hundred theatres, covering the key centres.

The production of Talking Pictures at Hollywood, in the studios of Tiffany, with an English supervisor in charge, has been arranged; and at the Gaumont Studios, Shepherd's Bush, London, an American supervisor will direct the Gaumont Tiffany Productions to be produced.



OBSERVATIONS

MESSRS. YOUNG AND GRANT have their office in the Fischer Bldg., Detroit. It is worth a visit to that city to see the Fischer Bldg., and Kunsky's Theatre, designed after the Mayan form of Art.

The Fischer Bldg. is named after the seven Fischer Bros., I am told. It is one of the most astonishingly beautiful buildings which I have seen. This includes buildings observed not only in America, but abroad. It is a monument to Beauty. Its architectural design is like a cathedral; and its marble interior decoration, covering the entire range in marble, which lines its walls and forms its pillars, are like huge gems, and as inspiring. The woodwork which lines the elevators is rosewood, beautifully veined, like the heart of a rose, while the doors and trimmings are in solid gold bronze. Not a detail has been overlooked. From the floor to the dome which arches overhead, every minute detail is a work of art in finish, in material, in design, in artistry.

* * *

THE Kunsky Theatre, which runs a Publix program, has contributed its share to the quality of this building. Although the Mayan culture utilizes colours vivid in their combinations, and gods and goddesses, huge and somewhat grotesque in their symmetry, the entire tone has been kept subdued, the greens, the reds and gold interblending; and with the aid of effective and softening lights, presents a vista like the interior of a Mayan Temple.

The show which featured "The Man I Love" was an excellent one throughout. The Detroiters with whom I visited this theatre stated that it was one of the best shows they had seen in a long time.

* * *

ON June 1st, at Wellesley Hospital, there arrived a little eight pound son to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lightstone, special representative in Ontario for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. When Mr. Lightstone was seen, he had that fatherly, benign look on his countenance, plus a look of wonderment that he was in reality a real, live Daddy. We tried to make him come down to earth, by telling him that this was only the first. After four more he would grow accustomed to the idea. Meanwhile, our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lightstone, and our best wishes to Gordon, Jr., for the Lion's share of the good things of life.

* * *

"SIME," who furnishes plenty of spice in life without Variety, always manages to give me a laugh. He has in fact been my little "laughing gas" on several occasions, especially when he tries to "land a kick" when he thinks I am not looking. The latest merry ha! ha! "Sime", not called Peter, has handed me, is obtained in the following letter. Read it, boys, and laugh with me:

June 4th, 1929.

Miss Ray Lewis,
Canadian Moving Picture Digest,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Miss Lewis:

Copy of your editorial of May 18th has just come to my attention.

I shall be pleased to publish same in Variety at the regular advertising page rate of $500 per page on receipt of your authorization and check.

Yours very truly,
LOUIS RYDELL,
Advertising Manager, Variety.

* * *

FOR five hundred bucks, you can call him a liar in his own paper. You see this is the game. Print a lot of lies; and then get paid to deny them, but it happens "Sime" that I do not happen to be on the Burlesque Wheel. I haven't a house which you can kill. You remember publishing the story about one of your advertisers, a burlesque impresario? You told a story of how his theatre was for sale, caused him a lot of trouble, cancellations, etc. When he called you up and asked you to deny this story, informing you that it was not true, you told him to send in his story, and then after reading the denial, you called him up and told him it would cost him $350 to publish the denial. He gave you the money "Sime," but cut you off his advertising list thereafter.

Well, "Sime" it will not work with me. If I gave you the $500 it will not make you less of a liar than you are without the money. Besides, I know about a dozen good places in which I could use $500. So thanks for the offer, old dear, so generously given, and so magnanimously refused. While doing your Variety money-getting exercises, don't bend "Sime," for if I catch you bending——"

* * *

THE Stratford Beacon-Herald had an editorial headed, "Movies or The Open Bar." It dealt with the comments of a preacher from the U. S., who in addressing a meeting in Toronto expressed an opinion that the moving pictures were worse than the open bar; and if the people had to select between the two he would favor the return of the bar. He is also reported as having said that he would not tolerate a member of his church who attended a moving picture theatre, which leads us to surmise that all the nuts do not grow on trees, nor are all the "nutty" humans in straight-jackets.

Plato, in defining Man, said he was a two-legged animal without feathers. Whereupon Diogenes plucked a cock of its feathers; and bringing it to the classroom said, "Behold Plato's Man."

In reviewing the discourse of this preacher from the U. S., his preference for an open bar, in comparison to Motion Pictures, we feel sorry for the "flock" who is under the guidance of such vision. It is indeed a case of "the blind leading the blind," but perchance the congregation over which this preacher presides has surreptitiously been attending the Movies, with enlightening consequences, leaving their pastor in his darkness, for there are none so blind as those that will not see; and any preacher of to-day who is guilty of such a comparison and preference, is indeed in the category of that class referred to by Jesus, Who Warned the people that they would have false prophets preaching in His Name!

* * *

The Classic Theatre, Owen Sound is to be equipped for Sound. Manager Chris. Georgas announced the new arrangement which goes into effect immediately.

Looking Them Over

"The Bridge of San Luis Rey" and "The Iron Mask"

"THE Bridge of San Luis Rey," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's presentation of Thornton Wilder's widely read, and much commented on book. Loew's Theatre, Manager Jules Bernstein.

The picture features Lily Damita, Ernest Torrence, Raquel Torres and Don Alvarado. The plot is a most unusual one, as was the story in book-form. In fact, the story created a bit of sensation in the annals of fiction; and is one of the most absorbing and interesting books which I have had the pleasure to peruse.

"THE Bridge of San Luis Rey," a tradition in old Peru, where it has stood from time immemorial as an institution in that particular place, as invincible to these villagers as the position of the heavens, falls on one particular day, that is, breaks away and precipitates five persons into Eternity. Father Juniper seeks to discover why these five should have so suddenly, and by such misadventure, been plunged to their death, why their deaths should have been linked together.

DURING the enfoldment, which reveals that their deaths followed the Law of Compensation, which rigidly adheres to the principle that a man shall reap what he sows, this law as unalterable as the law of the Medes and Persians, the reason why a little child, the son of a dancer, apparently innocent, should have been among those killed is given.

It is a fascinating conception, a story which requires some thinking, but it has been intelligently and simply produced so that all audiences may comprehend the significance of its revelation.

CHARLES BRABIN gave the story excellent direction. Lily Damita as a dancer without a conscience is admirably suited to the part. Ernest Torrence as her "Uncle" without a family relationship, gives as is his usual custom, a most interesting impersonation. Henry B. Walthall, as the priest, who delves into the reasons for the death of the five, and who delivers his version of the tragedy from the pulpit of the cathedral, has an excellent voice and personality for such a role. Don Alvarado, Mitchell Lewis, Emily Fitzroy, in fact, the entire cast is exceptional in its histrionic ability. This feature is part dialogue. It is a most unusual picture, charmingly presented.

"THE IRON MASK," Douglas Fairbanks, United Artists feature, Loew's, last week. It is a story of "The Three Musketeers," and centralizes around D'Artagnan and the Jolly Three, although many other historical characters are introduced: The Queen of Louis XIII gives birth to twin sons. Only the Queen, her lady-in-waiting, her attendant, are aware that there is "another one." The information is imparted to Cardinal Richelieu, who in order to avoid complications, kidnaps the young infant, sending him with a nurse into Spain. He also arranges for the abduction of the lady-in-waiting to the Queen, intending to confine her in a convent, in order to guard this secret. D'Artagnan goes to the rescue of his "beloved," and as is usual with a Fairbanks picture, this agile lover and master of the rapier, kills, wounds and slays single-handed an army of men who oppose him.

OF COURSE the musketeers answer to the call of "one for all and all for one"; and you can imagine how many men are slain when these four combine their forces. However, D'Artagnan loses his love, who is stabbed to death by a female accomplice of the Cardinal. She in turn is captured by the Musketeers and handed over to the executioner. It is a nice thrilly bit.

THE STORY moves swiftly and excitingly. The twin, who turns out to be a bad egg, returns with a group of his "faithful ones," usurps the throne from his brother, and having invented an Iron Mask, encases the visage of his brother therein, and confines him in the tower of a castle. But D'Artagnan goes to the rescue, restores the gentle Louis XIV to his throne; and the wicked brother is himself consigned to the tower and to end his days as the man with the Iron Mask.

THE BOYS will love it; and those who like Fairbanks in anything he does will like this latest picture. It is the first time I have observed that this jumping about was a bit too strenuous for the star, but it appears so in this picture.

Some of the flashes were marvels of pictorial beauty. There is a prologue and an epilogue, supposed to be spoken by Fairbanks. If he is doing the talking, both his elocution, his voice and his English leave nothing to be desired. Belle Bennett as the Queen Mother was queenly and motherly. Nigel de Brullier, Dorothy Revier, Margueritte de la Motte were all splendid in their respective parts.

"SHOW BOAT," Universal, Uptown, Management Nelson Shea. Second week and attracting excellent business and comments. Real entertainment and box-office quality. Should please anywhere and everywhere.

The "deaf and dumb" are writing to the press, it is said, for the return of the "Silent Drama." Since these unfortunates are only a very small minority, and sometimes not so dumb as those who talk, we fear that the Screen, now that it has found its voice, will prove eternally feminine, in refusing to be silent.

* * *

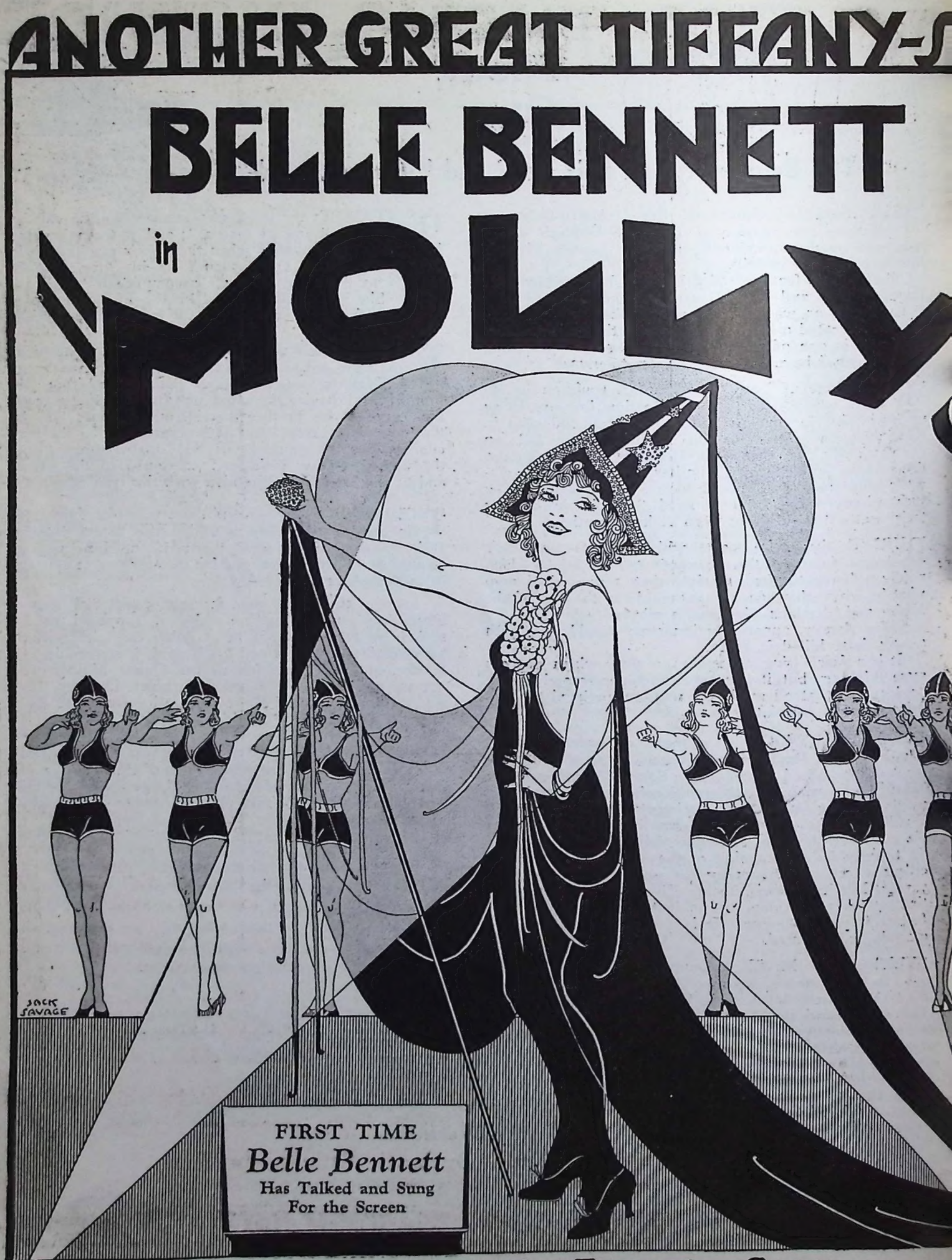
The Empress Theatre at Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, is rapidly being completed. Opening slated for July 1st. Bert Coombes is interested.

* * *

Stevey Stevens, well-known as a film salesman in Calgary, Alberta, was killed in an airplane crash near that city.

* * *

A WIRE received by Mr. Stein of the Pacent Reproducing Corp., Toronto, reveals the following information: "Patent Suit, Western Electric and Allied Co. versus Pacent Reproducing Corp., resulted in Dismissal."


ANOTHER GREAT TIFFANY-S
BELLE BENNETT
in
MOLLY
JACK SAVAGE
FIRST TIME
Belle Bennett
Has Talked and Sung
For the Screen
Coming to Loew's, Toronto, Soon

TALKING-SINGING PICTURE

hee Greatest Team for Rib-Cracking auughs and Heart-Breaking Love You Hanve Ever Seen—

In : a Romance of the Footlights Where hee Sorrows of Real Life Must Never Strrike a False Note in a Gay Song or Tanke the Kick Out of a Funny Line.

Two Supreme Artists
AT Their Best
IN Their Best

Theme Song, "In the Land of Make-Believe," by L. Wolfe Gilbert and Abel Baer.

TIFFANY-STAHL PRODUCTIONS

nd ME

WITH
JOE E.
BROWN

SUPPORTED BY
ALBERTA VAUGHN
AND
CHARLES BYERS

DIRECTED BY
ALBERT RAY

Play These *Sound* Box-Office Sound Pictures for Prestige and Profits

GEORGE JESSEL *in* "LUCKY BOY"
His first singing and talking picture. Greatest theme song ever written—"My Mother's Eyes," by L. Wolfe Gilbert and Abel Baer.

Booked to play at the Capitol Theatre, New York City.

""MY LADY'S PAST" *starring* BELLE BENNETT — *with* JOE E. BROWN
A Special Production with dialogue and sound. Theme Song, "A Kiss to Remember," by Ben Bernie.

"WHISPERING WINDS" *starring* EVE SOUTHERN in her first singing and talking picture with PATSY RUTH MILLER and MALCOLM MCGREGOR.

"NEW ORLEANS" *starring* WM. COLLIER, JR., RICARDO CORTEZ *and* ALMA BENNETT
A Reginald Barker Special Production, with dialogue and synchronization.

"THE RAINBOW" *starring* DOROTHY SEBASTIAN *and* LAWRENCE GRAY
A Reginald Barker Special Production. Theme song, "Song of Gold." Synchronization and sound effects by Joseph Littau.

"MARRIAGE BY CONTRACT" *starring* PATSY RUTH MILLER *and* LAWRENCE GRAY
A John M. Stahl Special Production. Theme song, "When the Right One Comes Along."

"THE TOILERS" *starring* JOBYNA RALSTON *and* DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, JR.
A Reginald Barker Special Production. Synchronization and sound effects by Hugo Riesenfeld.

"THE CAVALIER" *starring* RICHARD TALMADGE *and* BARBARA BEDFORD
Theme song, "My Cavalier." Synchronization and sound effects by Hugo Riesenfeld.

Coming—**"ZEPPELIN"**—A Super Dramatic Epic of the Air—
With Conway Tearle, Claire Windsor and Larry Kent.

SYNCHRONIZED BY R C A PHOTOPHONE

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"CARRY ON" PUBLICITY UP IN THE AIR

A plane supplied through the courtesy of Flight Lieut. E. L. MacLead, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, will drop pamphlets during the showing of the Gaumont British feature. "Carry On" which comes to the Pantages Theatre, Vancouver. Attached to the pamphlets will be 100 free tickets to the show. It looks as if Britishers are playing "the sky" as their limit.

Operator Prevents Panic Greenwood Theatre Fire

TWO HUNDRED persons filed out of the Greenwood Theatre, 1275 Gerrard East, Toronto, when fire broke out in the projection room. There was no panic owing to the presence of mind of Thomas Brown, the operator, who used his fire extinguisher and kept the blaze confined to the projection room, while the audience, including many children, were dismissed.

WEDDING BELLS

Joan Crawford and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., have been married. The ceremony took place in the rectory of St. Malachy's Roman Catholic Church, New York City, June 4th.

Charles Wener, special representative for Tiffany in Western Canada. Headquarters, Winnipeg.

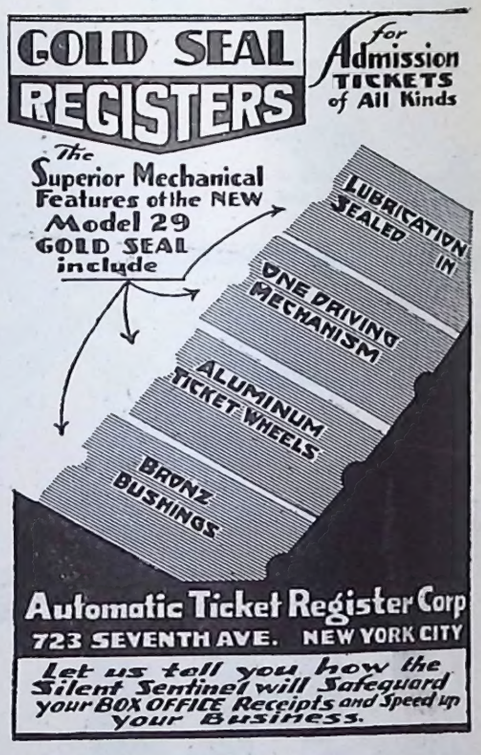
Federation of Musicians Condemn Canned Music

Members of the American Federation of Musicians at the annual convention of their organization, Denver, passed a resolution condemning "Canned Music" as a "Profanation of the Art of Music."

Milden Theatre, Saskatoon To Be Opened July 9th

THE MILDEN THEATRE at Saskatoon is now in the course of construction. Jas. J. Anderson has started excavations. The theatre is to be 40 x 80 ft. and is erected by A. E. Bratseth.

The opening will be held on July 9th.


GOLD SEAL REGISTERS
for Admission TICKETS of All Kinds
The Superior Mechanical Features of the NEW Model 29 GOLD SEAL include
LUBRICATION SEALED IN
ONE DRIVING MECHANISM
ALUMINUM TICKET WHEELS
BRONZ BUSHINGS
Automatic Ticket Register Corp
723 SEVENTH AVE. NEW YORK CITY
Let us tell you how the Silent Sentinel will Safeguard your BOX OFFICE Receipts and Speed up Your Business.

The Celcophone!!

Introducing our Disc Attachment for using Synchronous Records on Talking Pictures. Consists of heavy pedestal carrying reduction gear box, ball bearing turntable, pick-up bracket and pickup. It is adjustable to any height, sits on left of the projector near the mechanism and is directly connected to the mechanism by a steel shaft. And it operates silently and perfectly.

The Celcophone has many advantages. The turntable is mounted on ball bearings. All gears are machine cut and run in a bath of oil. The turntable is a steel stamping with flange, running true and not easily warped. The pedestal, with adjustable height column, carries the working parts, there is no attachment to the projector other than the connecting shaft, thus obviating any vibration from the projector.

The Celcophone can be attached to any Motiograph De Luxe, Powers or Simplex Projector in a few minutes. It is geared to revolve the Record at the synchronous speed. You may use your own amplifier and speakers or we will be glad to advise you on the purchase of either on request. Price per pair, including fader and booth speaker—$750.00.

A. C. Speed Indicators, driven by flexible cable from shutter shaft, but causing no wear thereon, to meter similar to a speedometer showing film speed in feet per minute, very necessary to obtain correct speed, extra, per pair—$85.00.

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

"Courtesy With Service"

John Gilbert, Marion Davies In "Hollywood Revue of 1929"

Addition of John Gilbert, Marion Davies and Norma Shearer to the cast of "The Hollywood Revue of 1929" leaves scarcely anyone of importance at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio, except possibly Lon Chaney and the gateman, outside the cast of this ambitious musical production.

Heralded as a gala successor to the eminently successful "Broadway Melody" the new talking-singing-dancing picture boasts a cast that might bankrupt the most opulent Broadway producer, if he were able to muster such celebrities together on one stage at one time. Production upkeep plus salaries for stars would easily go over the million dollar mark monthly, it is estimated, and even a "smash" hit could scarcely register a profit on those terms.

Utilization of such varied and costly talent is made possible at the picture studio by the fact that each star may enact his part in the revue in a day or two, then go on to fulfill other studio engagements. Nils Asther, for example, hurried from his home one morning at 9 o'clock to the "Hollywood Revue" set, played his role in the revue, and in the afternoon was over on one of the sets of "The Single Standard", his new feature assignment, a Greta Garbo vehicle.

Charles King, Bessie Love and Anita Page, the three principals in "The Broadway Melody," all have featured roles in the new musical. Others in the cast include Joan Crawford, William Haines, Buster Keaton, Marie Dressler, Polly Moran, Cliff Edwards, The Brox Sisters, Albertina Rasch, the Biltmore Trio and Natacha Natova.

No less than twenty original song numbers were written for "The Hollywood Revue of 1929" by some of the expert Tin Pan Alleyists brought to the coast by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for its musical productions.

Charles Riesner, director of the new film, handled many of the Syd Chaplin comedy vehicles, including "The Better 'Ole," and on completion of the "Hollywood Revue," will make "Road Show," a theatrical story co-featuring Raymond Hackett and Bessie Love.

Universal Announces Title Changes

Several important title changes have just been announced at the Universal home office. The pictures concerned are Jewels on the current season's release schedule, and will reach the screen in the early summer in both silent and sound versions, the latter form including both sound-on-the film and disc.

"Harmony Lane" is the new title for "The Play Goes On." The star of this picture is Eddie Leonard, the famous black-face comedian. Opposite him is Josephine Dunn, who played opposite Al Jolson in "The Singing Fool." Robert Hill is the director. The story was adapted for Leonard from a story by Jo Swerling. The cast also includes little Jane La Verne, Huntly Gordon and George E. Stone. The picture is for release early in July.

"The Love Trap" will be the new name for "That Blonde," scheduled for release late in June. It is a Laura La Plante Jewel directed by William Wyler from a story by Edward Montagne. Neil Hamilton is co-featured in the cast with Miss La Plante. Robert Ellis also in a leading role. Norman Trevor, Jocelyn Lee, Clarissa Selwyn and Florence Woods also are in the cast.

"Modern Love" will be title by which Universal's Jewel picture "You Can't Buy Love" will reach the screen. It is an all-star Jewel, directed by Arch B. Heath from a story by Beatrice Van. Jean Hersholt and Charley Chase head the cast with Kathryn Crawford and Edward Martindel in support. It probably will be released early in June.

Quebec Rings Curfew On Sunday Shows

(Special to The Digest from Ottawa)

THE COURT OF APPEALS at Montreal, Quebec, handed down two judgments through Mr. Justice Dorion on May 31 as a result of which all moving picture theatres in the Province of Quebec must close on Sundays, and all children under 16 years of age are completely barred from any theatre where moving pictures are shown, whether they are accompanied by adults or not.

THE DECISIONS, which are a distinct blow to the many exhibitors in Quebec centres, are the outcome of test cases which have been pending for many months. Last year the Quebec Legislature adopted a law prohibiting the admission of any child to any moving picture show, or even to a vaudeville theatre where one picture is presented. There were many prosecutions under this law, but the exhibitors were able to secure writs of prohibition, thereby halting court proceedings. Test cases were arranged and the exhibitors argued that the new law was discriminatory and unconstitutional. The Court of Appeals has now found that the law is valid and once more effective.

WITH REGARD to the Sunday show issue, the exhibitors gained a victory in the Superior Court when the presiding judge ruled that a moving picture show was not a "theatrical performance" under the meaning of the Lord's Day Act. There had been Sunday shows in the Province of Quebec for years and these continued without interruption after this decision. The Provincial Government appealed the case and the decision is now against the exhibitors.

The judgments will bring heavy losses to the theatres of the Province because a large percentage of their business was secured on Sundays and also from family trade. With children barred, many parents are also unable to attend the moving picture theatres, because they cannot go to the shows and leave their children at home alone.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a further appeal from the judgments by the exhibitors and it is intimated that the cases will be carried to the Privy Council at London if necessary.

Belle Bennett "Mothers" Boys Mail from Males Fourteen

BELLE BENNETT gets her greatest response from boys around the age of fourteen. Her fan mail, which gives her heartache more often than happiness, brings her more letters from young boys. If the letters are from women they are usually asking for something, from her cast off clothes to money for a college education. But the letters from boys generally go straight to her understanding heart.

Understanding with sympathy are perhaps the dominant qualities of this remarkable woman and splendid actress, and they make a particular appeal to boys just entering manhood. They perhaps feel that she is the one person to whom they could unburden their troubles. From their own mothers they might be ashamed of the mother love that they nevertheless long for and that they feel Miss Bennett could give them without embarrassment.

WHEREVER Miss Bennett makes an advertised public appearance, boys are there in great crowds. One time she made a personal appearance at a Los Angeles theatre where she was appearing on the screen in "Mother." When she left the stage door a swarm of boys gathered around her and one of them acted as spokesman, telling her that she couldn't know how much good she had done them—"After seeing that picture we'll be different, Miss Bennett. You certainly taught us a lesson," he avowed earnestly.

WHILE in New York making talking and singing sequences, recorded by the RCA Photophone, for the Tiffany-Stahl picture, "Molly and Me," Miss Bennett talked over the radio and the station announcer declared there had never been so many boys on the scene before. They accompanied her to the street in the elevator and talked to her. Miss Bennett never refuses to talk to these youngsters, for she realizes that this favor is a very small thing to her but may be a real influence in the life of boys of this unconfessed sentimental age.

ONE of the youngsters told Miss Bennett how, when she made a personal appearance at the opening of "Stella Dallas" in New York several years ago, he and his mother were in the crowd that stood in front on the curb to see her come. The policeman tried to get them out of the way, but they managed to keep a place so that, when she got out of her car, they were nearby. The crowd dragged her evening cloak from her shoulders, and he had caught it for her—did Miss Bennett remember that?—and his mother had been so proud of him because he had touched and served the actress!

IT IS little things like these that keep tender Miss Bennett's heart and the memory of that other boy—her own son—who died just as fame and material comforts came to her.

MISS BENNETT does not play a mother role in "Molly and Me," but, nevertheless, she has someone to mother in it, for her husband and stage partner is just a great big kid who sometimes gets into troubles and needs a heap of loving and understanding. "Molly and Me," in which Joe E. Brown is the "Me" and Alberta Vaughn is a fair disturber, will be the feature attraction at Loew's, Toronto, coming soon.

Famous Players Canadian RKO Combine In Canada

(Special to The Digest from Ottawa)

NO IMMEDIATE physical change has been evident following the formal announcement of the organization of Radio-Keith-Orpheum of Canada, Limited, which is an amalgamation of R-K-O of New York and Famous Players Canadian Corporation for the operation of combination houses in principal cities of the Dominion. Immediately following the conclusion of the big deal, N. L. Nathanson, managing director of Canadian Famous Players, left for a tour of Europe and it is not expected that new policies will be announced until Labor Day when leases, or control will be taken over. Both corporations hold a half interest in R-K-O of Canada, according to the articles of agreement.

FURTHER, no definite arrangement has yet been made for R-K-O theatres in Montreal and St. John, N.B., where the Imperial Keith houses are the personal property of E. F. Albee. The Pantages Theatre in Toronto is included in the original list but there is also the Pantages Theatre in Hamilton, Ontario, which will probably have to be taken care of. Both of these theatres were recently wired.

THREE of the the theatres named, B. F. Keith's, Ottawa; Orpheum, Winnipeg; and the Orpheum, Vancouver, have recently had R-C-A installations, while all wired houses of the Famous Players chain have Western Electric equipment. Famous Players has operated the Capitol Theatre at Winnipeg for years, with other local theatres as well, and this is the one strictly Famous Players' house which goes to the R-K-O group so far. Pantages, Toronto, has been operated as a subsidiary unit of Famous Players.

THE SITUATION at Ottawa, Ontario, is that Famous Players will not now proceed with the erection of the new theatre, the foundations for which had been laid, to compete with B. F. Keith's Theatre but will have a half interest in the latter theatre. Famous Players will continue with the Regent and Imperial Theatres in Ottawa under direct control.

Famous Players recently acquired the Auditorium Theatre in Quebec City, which has been booking R-K-O vaudeville, but the Auditorium is not mentioned as a part of the new R-K-O chain in the Dominion.

BILL HART plans to appear in a series of all-talkie cowboy films. Bill was a great favorite before marital difficulties caused him to retire from the screen.

* * *

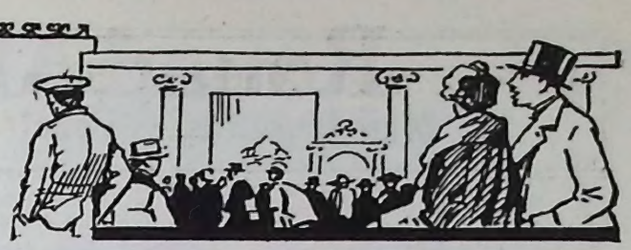
ROBERT I. MEAGHER, liquidator of the Trans-Canada Theatres, Ltd., estate, is declared as entitled to $3,000 bonus money with interest, on a $30,000 mortgage given by the London Loan and Savings Co., on the theatre premises. This is the judgment as handed down by Justice Wright at Osgoode Hall.

* * *

A REPORT from Winnipeg states that the Famous Players Canadian Corp., has acquired six more independent theatres in that city, two which were owned by Mr. Kershaw and four which were operated by Henry Morton.

The Garrick, Winnipeg, has booked "Molly and Me," "Lucky Boy," "My Lady's Past," and "Whispering Winds," Tiffany all dialogue features.

Show Business



Dramatic bookings for the season having concluded, the Princess Theatre, Montreal, well-known downtown house, will re-open shortly under the new auspices of the Consolidated Theatres, Limited, as an exclusive talking picture policy, the opening attraction being "The Iron Mask." The Princess will specialize in the productions of United Artists and other companies, while Abbie Wright, well-known showman, will remain as manager.

An interesting development is noted at Cornwall, Ontario, where the comparatively new Capitol Theatre is being fitted with Western Electric sound equipment under the direction of C. G. Markell, manager. Cornwall has a population of 14,000 and is probably the smallest town in the Dominion so far to enjoy audiens. The Palace Theatre, also in Cornwall, is to be re-opened for the exclusive showing of silent pictures.

Announcement has been made at Montreal that 95 theatres of the big Famous Players chain in Canada will be equipped for the presentation of sound and dialogue pictures before the end of 1929. Almost half of this number are already equipped, these being located from Quebec City to Vancouver.

Two theatres in the quaint and ancient French city of Quebec are now regularly presenting sound film programs, these being the Auditorium and the Theatre Canadien, both having complete installations. The Canadien is specializing in United Artists features while the Auditorium is being booked by Famous Players.

The whole exterior of the Regent Theatre, Ottawa, popular downtown house, is receiving an acid scouring, the brickwork taking on an entirely refreshioned appearance.

The Manitoba Provincial Government has decided to install sound picture equipment in the projection room of the Manitoba Board of Moving Picture Censors at a cost of $10,000. This is the first Province in the Dominion to make arrangements for its own talking picture projection.

A theatre to cost $140,000 is to be built this summer at Lethbridge, Alberta, by Famous Players Canadian Corp., it is announced. The situation there is quite interesting as G. W. Peacock of the Lethbridge Amusement Company recently took over the Majestic Theatre and is having the house wired and remodelled. Famous Players also has opened its new Capitol Theatre in Saskatoon, Sask., under the management of Frank Miley. It has complete sound equipment.

During recent months a considerable portion of the population of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, has been crossing over the border to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to attend performances at the Colonial and Temple Theatres in order to enjoy talking pictures. The situation, insofar as W. P. McGeachie, manager of the Algoma Theatre at the Ontario "Soo," is concerned, has been rectified because the Algoma opened with dialogue films on June 3, following a Western Electric installation.

The office staff of the branch of Warner Bros. at Calgary, Alberta, has been moved into the local headquarters of First National, following the amalgamation of the two enterprises.

Earnings of Famous Players Canadian Corp. for the month of March took a jump of 100 per cent., thanks to sound and dialogue pictures, as compared with the same month last year, it has been formally announced. The first six months of the present fiscal year saw earnings 80 per cent. greater than for the same period last year. Further information is that the present fiscal 12 months, ending in August, will show earnings equal to $4 on each share of common stock of the corporation as compared with $1.44 per share for the previous 12 months' period, and it is intimated that the common will go on a dividend basis following the annual meeting next fall.

Ottawa, Ontario, was the hottest city in Canada during the week of May 27, according to the weather bureau, and all local theatres suffered severely in the heat wave. Attendance failed to hold up even for such attractions as "Coquette" at the Centre and "The Wild Party" at the Regent.

The Galvin Theatre, Ottawa's only stock dramatic house, suddenly called it a season on Saturday, June 1, when the props were packed up for an indefinite period. It is common gossip locally that the wiring of seven Ottawa moving picture houses made a big dent in the business at the Galvin where the one stock company had presided for the past three years.

The most demonstrative crowd ever to attend sound and talking pictures in Winnipeg, are those at the Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg, where "The Singing Fool" opened a three weeks' engagement, starting at midnight, Thursday, May 23. Each afternoon and night city police have had to attend the outside of the Metropolitan and preserve order. The eagerness of the people standing outside to get in ahead of schedule has never been witnessed at a motion picture theatre in Winnipeg. The manager, Walter F. Davis, is looking for a continuance of the attendance at a high mark during the entire engagement.

Harold Bishop, who was for a number of years engaged in theatre management, in Winnipeg, has returned to Winnipeg to manage the Capitol Theatre. Mr. Bishop has been manager of the Capitol Theatre in Calgary, Alberta, in association with John Hazza; and also has been manager of the Capitol Theatre, Edmonton, Alberta, during the past four years. He is a brother of Leonard Bishop, of Hamilton, Ont., Famous Players theatres.

Work has started on alterations to the Empress Theatre, Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Permanent Construction Company is the builders. The entire building will be overhauled inside, and numerous modern changes made.

Round About the Studios

Helen Eby-Rock, widow of William Rock with whom she gained fame in vaudeville, plays the feminine lead opposite Frank Davis in "The Salesman," a new talking comedy produced for Pathe by George Le Maire.

Nina Mae McKinney, seventeen year old colored girl who was signed for King Vidor's new picture, "Hallelujah," while playing in the musical production, "Blackbirds," has been given a new contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, following a preview by studio executives of the picture, Miss McKinney is now visiting relatives in New York.

Jackie Taylor and his famous Roosevelt Hotel Orchestra, one of Hollywood's most popular jazz bands, have been signed by Columbia Pictures to supply the musical accompaniment for "The Fall of Eve," the company's latest talking special. Patsy Ruth Miller and Arthur Rankin are the only featured members of the cast selected so far. Frank Strayer is directing.

Completing the filming of the Christie-McLean feature production, "Divorce Made Easy," an all talking feature picture starring Douglas MacLean, with Marie Prevost, Johnny Arthur, Frances Lee, Dot Farley, and Jack Duffy; and also putting the finishing touches on the latest Christie short talking play, "Her Husband's Women," featuring Lois Wilson and Harrison Ford, the Christie sound studios are starting at once on another talking short, "The Sleeping Porch," with Raymond Griffith.

Gertrude Lawrence, who recently signed a contract to appear in a Paramount talking picture, will have the leading role in "The Gay Lady," an original story by Gene Markey. Monta Bell, producer at the Paramount Long Island Studio where the picture will be made, assigned the continuity and the picture is scheduled for production early in June. Miss Lawrence came to America as one of the principals in "Chariot's Revue," later starring in "Oh Kay!" and "The Treasure Girl." Gene Markey is co-author with Elsie Janis of Paramount's jazz musical film hit "Close Harmony".

Claire Windsor, appearing in Tiffany-Stahl's "Midstream."

Christy Cabanne, directing the "Revue of Revues," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer talking-singing novelty, has directed motion pictures in their every phase. He started as an assistant to D. W. Griffith when the latter first started in pictures; he gave Lillian Gish her first screen test, and now he is directing the most ultra-modern form of talking screen entertainment.

Ina Claire's company has completed rehearsals at the Pathe Studios in Culver City, and began production this week. Marshall Neilan is directing. Rollo Lloyd for years Henry W. Savage's stage director, has been directing the dialogue and will work with Neilan on the production. Ernest Hilliard was added as the last member of the cast. The principal roles in support of Miss Claire will be played by Henry Daniel and Paul Harvey, brought to the coast direct from Broadway productions, Blanche Frederici and Judith Vasali.

Joyce Murray, a new screen personality, signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

The children of the world are due for one of the biggest thrills of their lives when they see Our Gang's newest talking picture "Railroadin' ".

To the tune of tooting whistles, hissing steam and pounding locomotives, the six Gang rascals engage in the most breath-taking adventures of their merry careers.

The dialogue is now being recorded for the Tiffany-Stahl special production "Midstream" in which Ricardo Cortez, Claire Windsor, Montagu Love, Helen Jerome Eddy and Larry Kent play the principle roles. The dialogue sequences are being directed by Harry Mestaire while James Flood is directing the silent versions. According to reports received from the Tiffany-Stahl Studios in Hollywood, both Cortez and Miss Windsor have marvelous recording voices.

William Collier, Jr., has an important role in "Two Men and A Maid," a Tiffany-Stahl Production.

Seventy-five negroes from Los Angeles have temporarily turned motion picture players for Paramount's new George Bancroft's picture, "Thunderbolt." They are being used in Harlem cabaret scenes of the new Josef von Sternberg production. Among the dusky players in the picture is the complete cast of entertainers from a cabaret. This talent includes dancers, singers and piano players. All of their specialties are being recorded by the microphones. Bancroft is a hardened, but jovial, enemy of the law in "Thunderbolt." Richard Arlen and Fay Wray play the chief supporting roles.

Clifford Robertson, formerly casting director for M-G-M, has been appointed head of Columbia Pictures' casting department, according to an announcement from Harry Cohn, vice-president in charge of production.

"A Man Must Fight" has been selected as the title of the talking film starring "Buddy" Rogers now in production at the Paramount studios in Hollywood. The picture is an adaptation of Booth Tarkington's popular play "Magnolia," with the colorful days of before the Civil War on the Mississippi River plantations as the background. Mary Brian has the principal feminine role. Other principals in the cast are June Collyer, H. B. Walthall, Wallace Beery and Walter McGrail. Richard Wallace, director of Maurice Chevalier's "Innocents of Paris," now playing twice daily at the Criterion Theatre, is directing "A Man Must Fight."

Walter O'Keefe, Broadway librettist, and Bobby Dolan, composer, have arrived from New York, in Culver City to write for Pathe. O'Keefe wrote the book and lyrics of "Just a Minute," a Broadway musical success of the past season. Another of his musical books, "Up and At 'Em" will be produced this fall. Dolan wrote the music for this one. One of O'Keefe's most popular song hits was "Henry's Made a Lady Out of Lizzy." The first assignment of this clever team is to write numbers for Ina Claire's first production for Pathe.

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Information on Sound Equipment

Installation of equipment for the showing of "talking pictures" is the subject uppermost in the minds of Canadian exhibitors just now. They realize that equipment must be installed, but with the many types now on the market they are in a quandary as to which is best suited to their theatres.

Regal Films Limited will be glad to furnish exhibitors with information in this line and and help you work out your problems. ***We do not sell equipment of any kind,*** nor are we interested in any make. Our sole object in offering this service is to give Canadian exhibitors the benefit of the information we have gathered with regard to what might be best suited to the various types of theatres.

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